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# ROSECROFT'S BEGONIA GUIDE



Library and Begonia Jessie



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POINT LOMA, CALIFORNIA  
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The  
Proprietors  
in  
Their  
Lathouse

# ROSECROFT



Rosecroft is on Point Loma, the head of land that forms the Northwest boundary of the Bay of San Diego, California, and in consequence of that situation enjoys an all the year round mildness of climate coupled with a moist atmosphere, that permits of the cultivation of the Begonia family with a simple lath protection. In such a shelter as a result of over a quarter of a century of collecting and breeding, Rosecroft grows what competent critics have pronounced much the best exposition of this family in the world. The so-called Tree Begonias attain a height of twenty feet and all sorts flourish.

## THIS LIST

While this list is not inclusive of all the Begonias in the Rosecroft collection, nor claimed to be authoritative as to nomenclature, it has been most carefully prepared and we believe will be found a valuable guide in a field singularly bare of printed information.

As it is hoped that this list may act as a guide as well as a catalogue, varieties have been included which are not at present for sale, such as are marked with a star (★).

## NOMENCLATURE

There is no real authority for reference as to description and titles of the Begonia family, at least we have been unable to find such. Many of the species are now possessed of a number of aliases and the same Begonia is known according to locality or personal preference by a variety of names. Rosecroft assumes no responsibility for the names used in this list, having in many instances acknowledged its own unauthorized titles.

N. B. Where two names are given, the leading one is our choice, adopted as a result of much delving into past history.

N. B. Color descriptions have been made from blooms under average growing conditions, but it should be remembered that culture and location have much influence in modifying them, reds in strong light may become pinks in shade, etc. Ridgway's Color chart used.

## PRICES AND SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

Most of the varieties listed can be supplied at from 25c up to several dollars for large specimens..

Rare sorts start at \$1 up.

**Orders for less than \$1 are not acceptable, and mailing charges must be included in remittance.**

For shipment by Parcel Post add 25 per cent East of Chicago, 15 per cent West of Chicago to the Rockies and 10 per cent on Pacific Slope. Express shipments, which we recommend, sent C. O. D.

We successfully ship live plants to all parts of the United States, and at all seasons except the hot summer months of July and August, and those of extreme winter cold, December, January and February.

Tubers shipped when dormant in January and February.

Cultural Directions with every order.

★ Means no sales stock.

## FIBROUS BEGONIAS—Tree Form

### Type, Coralline Lucerne

(25c, 50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

These Begonias are big growers with branching tops, leaves broad at base, long and pointed, blooms in large pendant clusters; though they grow fifteen feet, they bloom from cuttings at less than a foot.

**CORALLINE LUCERNE.** The largest of all, flowers in immense clusters deep pink to red, foliage dark green upper and red under, sometimes spotted.

**PRESIDENT CARNOT.** Similar to LUCERNE but with lighter foliage unspotted, except in young shoots, blooms brilliant red and longer in form.

N. B. Other names such as Yosemite and Flammarion are often given to this Begonia or to others so like it that the difference is not apparent to the average person.

**HELEN.** Similar to Carnot but with white blooms. \$1.00.

**DE LESSEPS.** Similar but not so tall a grower and with pink tinted almost white flowers, foliage often quite spotted.

**ROSSI.** Much lighter foliage with a bronzy cast, flowers a light pink. 50c up.

**GENEVA.** Shorter more bushy grower, leaves rounder and more spotted, blooms nearer to pink.

**ARGENTEA GUTTATA.** An old very hardy sort, medium grower, very shrubby in habit, foliage dark and heavily silver spotted; blooms, greenish white.



## ROSECROFT INTRODUCTIONS

**ORRELL.** Seedling of Lucerne, very light green foliage handsomely silver spotted, blooms cherry red held more erect than the type, a great addition to the class. 35c up.

**LUGANO.** Another Lucerne seedling branching more freely than its parent, leaves smaller and darker, blooms deep pink produced with great freedom. 35c up.

**MAYBELLE E.** Medium grower, branches well, foliage dark heavily silver spotted, blooms begonia red with white center to seedpods, very distinctive. 50c.

SARA-BELLE. A seedling of Maybelle E. Leaves medium cress green thickly silver spotted under jade green with purple flush, veins ruddy; bloom deep hellebore red with white center to seedpods, petals thulite pink. Medium grower sending up several canes, the whole plant giving a pendent effect. \$1.00.

HELEN W. KING. A Coralline seedling of medium growth with dark metallic leaves generally silver spotted. Blooms pink carried in bunches close to the main stem, as in fruit blossom. 50c.

ROSIE MURPHISKI. Another Coralline seedling of even shorter growth, leaves very metallic heavily silver spotted with crinkled edges, stems almost black in short joints like a bamboo. Blooms pink. 50c.

BELLARGIO. Very smooth, medium dark ivy green leaf, under burnt lake; bloom bright carmine; excellent habit, very distinctive. \$1.00.

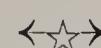
LUCENDRO. Very pointed leaf of yew green, heavily silver spotted with silver tips; bloom spinel red with white center to seedpod; excellent bushy habit. 50c.

CODELARGO. Leaf dark cress green heavily silver spotted under ox blood red; bloom light spinel pink; good branching habit. 50c.

★MAGGIORE. Leaf deep dull yellow green, under burnt lake; bloom dark spinel red. 50c.

NEUCHATEL. Large leaf of dark, dull green with subdued silver spots under veins bordeaux; bloom Brazil red with lighter petals; extra vigorous. 50c

LECCO. Leaf ivy green, heavily silver spotted under burnt lake; bloom begonia rose; good branching habit. 50c.



## NOVELTIES

ALZASCO. Lucerne seedling. Medium grower, leaf very dark ivy green, almost black at times, under dark maroon purple, young foliage silver spotted, spots often showing purple flush; bloom garnet brown carried quite upright. \$2.00.

★CONSTANCE. Lucerne seedling and very vigorous. Large typical leaf of dark cress green, on young shoots very heavily spotted with pinkish purple, color and spots disappearing with age, new foliage on older stems distinctly bronzy, under corinthian purple; bloom rose red shading to pink inside petals. \$1.

★INTERLAKEN. Lucerne seedling. Large wavy leaf of cress green with subdued spots, under jade green, with two sharp points in developed lobe other lobe almost non-existent; Bloom pompeian red and extra large.

MUSSOLINI. A Lucerne seedling. Very large long leaf of dark cress green conspicuously silver spotted under overcast with purple; bloom pomegranate purple in bud toning to a jasper pink in open flower. Big grower. \$1.00.

PALU. Lucerne seedling. Long leaves with wavy edge elm green sparsely silver spotted, under jade green; bloom light rose, inside of petal tinted rose, clusters held more upright than type. \$2.00.

RIGI. Lucerne seedling. Smaller all round. Leaf cress green heavily silver spotted, slightly waved, under jade green with veins outlined in purple; bloom medium in handsome clusters rose red to lighter in half the petals. Quite distinctive. \$1.00.

TANAY. Lucerne seedling. Large typical leaf of hellebore green conspicuously silver spotted, under indian red; bloom corinthian pink shading lighter in petals of which there are often five. Both leaf and bloom give a light effect. Growth very sturdy and branching. \$1.00.

N. B. The many new seedlings of Coralline Lucerne of Rosecroft introduction have been named from Alpine Lakes and places to maintain a family feeling, and facilitate identification.



## FIBROUS BEGONIAS—Tree Form

### Rubra Type

(25c, 50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

These are variously known as Rubra, Bamboo and Angel Wing. Their growth, tall and vigorous, resembles that of a bamboo, and their long narrow light green leaves are borne so placed on the branch that they resemble the hunched wings of the illustrated Angels of long ago. Blooms, in large pendent clusters.

RUBRA RED. Brilliant scarlet.

RUBRA PINK. Soft pink.

ARGYROSTIGMA. Pink; foliage occasionally spotted.

DECORUS. White with brownish seed pod, sweet scented.



Coralline Lucerne (Page 4)



Rex Lesoudsii (Page 24)



Calla (Page 22)

ALBA PERFECTA. Dainty white; foliage slightly ruffled of pleasing light green.

PICTA ROSEA. Also called the Baby Rubra, rose colored, blooms very freely produced, and smaller foliage sometimes spotted.

PICTA ALBA. Narrow small dark foliage heavily spotted with silver, almost black stems and white flowers, smaller grower than Rosea.



## ROSECROFT INTRODUCTIONS

SHASTA. A splendid large white, much the finest white yet introduced in this class. \$1.00 up.

MRS. W. D. HARNEY. Large white and pink blooms. Vigorous. 50c up.

MRS. SCHINKEL. Regular orchid color of Rosea Picta type. 50c up.

RUBRA ODORATA. Deep rose bloom very delightfully scented. \$1.00 up.

RUBRA DIELYTRA. Blooms strongly resembling those of the Bleeding Heart, most charming. 50c up.

MARTHA. Medium grower, leaves with sawtooth lobe, small blooms of deep red. \$1.00 up.

JINNIE MAY. A dwarf not more than two feet, laurel like leaves, small dainty red blooms. \$1.00 up.

MARY. Medium grower and quite bushy, red blooms profusely produced and well distributed, carried in open dainty clusters. \$1.00.

BENNETT RUBRA. Medium grower, leaves narrow dark green, typical clusters of bloom, seedpod salmon with lighter petals. 50c.

SHRIMP RUBRA. A very distinct soft shrimp shade. 50c.

AUDREE. Wavy leaf of yew green; bloom begonia rose in clusters, flaring rather than pendant. \$1.00.

ELITHE. Leaf yew green; bloom begonia rose. \$1.00.

GRACE. Leaf dark, dull, yellow green; bloom eocene pink, shading to white with conspicuous yellow stamens; quite fragrant. 50c.

LADY LOU. Leaf cress green, serrated edge; bloom cameo pink; drooping habit. \$1.00.

VELMA S. Leaf cress green, shorter and rounder than type; bloom eocene pink, with rounded petals and seedpods, and male flowers larger than type; distinctive. \$1.00.

## NEW THINGS IN RUBRAS

CLEMMENCE. Rosea Picta seedling. Narrow small very wavy leaf of dark cress green, under jade green; bloom deep corinthian red with lighter petals. Bushy medium growth. \$1.00.

LOUISE RUBRA No. 90. Tremendous grower. Leaf cress green, developed lobe very long, under clear jade green; bloom in large panicles, white tinted pink, always in bloom. \$1.00.

LILIAN S. RUBRA. Leaf green leaf some with large silver spots under suffused with purple, bloom shaded corinthian red and white. \$1.00.

MARGE RUBRA No. 57. Leaf with pointed lobe, light cress green with faint spotting, under jade green veining faintly flushed purple; bloom old rose, half the petals white, center of seedpod greeny. \$1.00.

ERNA RUBRA. Typical medium leaf of cress green, under slightly purple flushed, young foliage bronzy; bloom individual small but produced in great profusion, eugenia red with bronzy effect. \$1.00.

ROSE RUBRA. Typical leaf of cress green under light cress green bloom bright begonia rose, very floriferous and good growing habit. \$1.00.

PINK SHASTA No. 79. Similar to Shasta of which it is a seedling. Large grass green leaf with conspicuous point on lobe; bloom large tinted Eocene pink. \$1.

ROBEGO. Rosea Picta seedling. Bushy leaves green silver spotted under suffused purple; bloom rose pink. Floriferous and excellent for potting. \$1.00.

ARLENE. Rosea Picta seedling. Almost a dwarf of the type. Medium leaf of dark green under lighter suffused with purple; bloom light pink shading to white center of seed pod green, very floriferous. \$1.00.

ANNIE LAURIE. A Rosecroft Picta Rosea seedling. Medium grower ivy green leaf heavily silver spotted; blooms light jasper red giving a slight orange effect, the nearest to yellow in this family. \$1.00.

JEAN. Rubra seedling. Narrow medium leaf slightly waved forest green, under elm green tinted light Indian Lake; bloom, seedpod Eugenia red, petals tinted, two much lighter than the rest. 50c.

★ Means no sales stock.

## OTHER TALL FORMS

(25c, 50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

**MULTIFLORA ROSEA.** Also called FLORIBUNDA ROSEA, small foliage carried close to stem, pendent fuchsia-like blooms of delicate pink, always in flower and hardy.

**FUCHSIOIDES COCCINEA.** A similar form but blooms transparent scarlet. Mexico calls it "CORAZON DE JESU."

**COMPTA.** Tall slender grower with long pointed leaves, greyish green with conspicuous grey center, small white blooms in large close clusters. 50c and up.

**VEDDERI.** A seedling of Compta but much smaller grower with leaves broader at base and shorter, also lacking the grey center but with wavy edge. 50c.

**ZEBRINA.** Also ANGULARIS from its square stem, similar to Compta but grey markings much less pronounced, a much more vigorous grower

★**ACUTANGULARIS.** A giant Zebrina, large leaf of ivy green with soft velvety effect, under brilliant garnet brown, stem thick and squared.

**WALLOW.** One of the very best new things. A vigorous grower branching well. Foliage very dark, long, narrow and wavy, carried almost perpendicularly, giving great elegance. Blooms tinted white in erect clusters. \$1.00.



## FIBROUS BEGONIAS—Intermediate Growth

(25c, 50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

**PREUSEN.** Very bushy upright habit, small long leaves and blooms of pink tint scattered through foliage, good at any stage.

**BAYERN.** Similar to Preusen but foliage spotted.

**SACHSEN.** Similar to Preusen but smaller grower with darker bronzy foliage and coppery red blooms.

**WETTSTEINI.** A branching small tree type with wavy green foliage and brilliant bunches of bloom, the most brilliant of all the reds. 50c.

**INCARNATA.** Upright grower with light green foliage and pink flowers in numerous clusters. Winter bloomer.

**SYLVIA.** A seedling of Incarnata with wavy foliage and dainty pink flowers; likes shade.



Glaucophylla Scandens (Page 21)



Rubra Bennett (Page 8)

MARGUERITE. Upright bush form with hairy foliage and tinted pink flowers, an old reliable.

IMPROVED MARGUERITE. This has larger leaves and blooms than the original form and is entitled to the qualifying "improved."

DIGSWELLIANA. Bushy with crinkly foliage and tinted pink bloom. IMPROVED DIGSWELLIANA. A recent introduction is a variation with darker foliage and almost red bloom.

ROBUSTA. Small ruddy leaves and red stems; blooms pink to red, grows with fountain effect, continually sending up new shoots; very hardy and desirable. Does well in full sun.

IMPROVED ROBUSTA. Growth more upright than last, foliage darker and blooms on longer stems and bigger bunches, a distinct variation.

WASHINGTON ST. An unnamed seedling found in a San Diego garden, with long green leaves and small white blooms in bunches produced in winter; quite individual. Also known as Peach-leaved.

ODORATA ALBA. Round, glossy foliage with large bunches of delicately scented white flowers continuously produced. One of the very best and makes a large spreading bush.

ODORATA ROSEA. A pink form of Alba not nearly so vigorous. (This is called Nitida in some lists).

UNDINE. A Rosecroft seedling of Odorata Alba with tinted blooms; both blooms and foliage waved. Medium grower and bushes nicely.

ROSEA GIGANTEA. Large, round glossy foliage with a red spot where the stem joins; blooms a deep rose to red, produced in winter in large bunches held upright; one of the most handsome of the Begonias. 50c up.

LOBATA VARIEGATA. A somewhat difficult doer with serrated spotted foliage and white blooms.

MEDORA. A restrained branching type, leaves small heavily silver spotted, pink blooms.



★ Means no sales stock.

## LOW GROWING BRANCHING TYPE

(25c, 50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

WELTONIENSIS ROSEA. Semi-tuberous with pointed serrated small leaves, red stems and pink flowers, makes fine pot specimens; dormant in winter.

WELTONIENSIS ALBA. Similar to above with white blooms and larger grower.

McBETHII. Also commonly called Dewdrop, semi-tuberous, fine ferny foliage, white flowers, bushy in habit.

McBETHII-PINK (Rosecroft). Blooms tinted, foliage finer and plant generally more open than parent McBethii.

PARVIFOLIA. Semi-tuberous like McBethii but softer and with less pronounced maple leaves, cress green with faint purple edge; bloom small white. Makes plant like a little tree.

DREGEI. Like McBethii but foliage darker especially in center.

★RICHARD ROBINSON (Rosecroft). A seedling of McBethii but with larger foliage beautifully variegated with white.

RICHARDSONI. Similar to McBethii but foliage longer and more feathery; likes shade, flowers white.

SUTHERLANDI (SCHNITZERI). An orange flowered form of these semi-tuberous, native of South Africa. 35c.

FOLIOSA. Very small leaved, foliage grows flat like a fern, flowers quite miniature, white borne in singles pendent. Takes the place of a fern in grouping.

BERTHA VON LOTHRINGEN. Another possibly incorrect name. It has also been named to us as Pearl de Lorraine. A thick stemmed kind with smooth medium green foliage veined peculiarly in chocolate; winter bloomer, pink shaded.

SAUNDERSII (SANDERSONI). A low bushy grower with light green serrated foliage, blooms, a brilliant scarlet.

NITIDA. A wonderful free blooming white, about two feet, flowers very dainty borne in large upright clusters, always in bloom; splendid pot plant. (The description in some lists of Nitida is that we give to Odorata Rosea).

LUXURIANT or OLBIA. A small grower with woody stems, leaves a beautiful velvet green, shaped like the Lucerne group but much smaller, blooms greenish white in pendent clusters. 50c.

ARTHUR MALLET. A somewhat shy doer but when happy makes a wonderful plant with very dark speckled leaves suffused with pinky purple. There is a slight variation popularly known as TINGLEY MALLET. \$1.00.

BERTHA DE CHATEAU ROCHER, also called Ascotiensis and Corbeille de Feu. They may be separate varieties but they don't look like it. Upright grower with leaves like Floribunda, brilliant coral red blooms, makes fine specimen when well grown.

FRANCONIS. A small bushy grower, succulent stems, foliage rounding light green and rough, blooms small white in singles borne very freely.

SCOTCH LUXURIANS. A perfectly unauthorized title for lack of any other. A rapid growing branching sort with large soft grey green leaves and white flowers in panicles. This has been tentatively identified as SUB-VILIOSA.



## THICK STEMS AND PROCUMBENT TYPES

(50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

VERSCHAFELTI. Thick stem, very large green lobed leaves on long fleshy stems, blooms in huge upright pink clusters borne well above foliage, very early flowering.

★CAROLINAEFOLIA. Similar habit, but with perfectly palmate leaves of light green, each finger on a separate stem, blooms pink, a native species from Mexico. \$1.00.

ECUADORENSIS. A native of Ecuador, raised from seed sent from there; very thick upright stem, leaves large almost palmate, green with inconspicuous white markings toward points when young; blooms crepy white to pink in clusters on long erect stems. Deciduous. \$2.00.

★SILVERADO. Seedling of Ecuadorensis. Large maple leaf of grey with ribs and edge irregularly and narrowly outlined in cress green; bloom in upright panicles of small white flowers. Heavy stem and deciduous.

FLORIDA SPECIES. So called simply because it was obtained in Florida, it is however possibly a Guatamalan native. Growth similar to Verschafelti. Leaves large round and light green, blooms in yellowish white panicles. \$1.00.



Compta (Page 10)



Odorata Alba (Page 12)

PAUL BRUANT. Very serrated bronzy foliage; blooms, pink in large clusters, early, very handsome when well grown.

GILSONI. The only double in this class and it is more crested than double, thick stem, good branching habit, dark green leaves pointed and fluted, light pink blooms in large clusters; early, uncertain bloomer. \$1.00.

VITAFOLIA. This is the name given us for a plant raised from seed sent from Mexico. The leaves are shiny green above rusty under, large and irregular heart shaped, tinted pink small flowers in large clusters. Early.

MRS. W. KIMBALL. Upright stiff habit, foliage fluted and often silver spotted on brownish green. Blooms large and pink.

RICINAFOLIA. Sends up enormous bronzy leaves on long thick hairy stems, from a procumbent fleshy root stock. Bloom stalks often four feet long with bunches of pink flowers a foot and a half across; wonderful tub plant and very hardy.

FISCHERS RICINAFOLIA. A smaller plant with more pointed leaves.

IMMENSE. Similar in type to Ricinafolia but with flatter greener leaves on shorter stems.

MRS. MARY PEACE. A seedling of Ricinafolia with palmate leaves of very dark green ruffled on edges; blooms pale pink. \$1.00.

RUBELLA. A medium grower of this type with leaves sprinkled with ruddy spots and very hairy; blooms pink.

SUNDERBRUCKII. Called also Ricinafolia and Star; foliage palmate, dark almost black, striped with lustrous green, blooms pinky; early.

N. B. There are a number of variations of these so-called STAR Begonias such as NIGRICANS, SEVEN and NINE POINTED, etc.; we do not list them because on the same plant most of these leaf variations will occur.

★GUATAMALA. One of the so-called Star Begonias. Leaves typical green with dark brown spots, particularly in young plants.

FEASTII. The Beefsteak Begonia, very procumbent in habit, leaves dark green upper and red under, thick, shiny and round like a water lily pad; blooms light pink in clusters well above foliage; admirable for baskets and mounds.

CONCHAEFOLIA. A Helix or spiralled form of Feastii, the lobes often making several circles.

There is a variety known as ★UPRIGHT FEASTII or FLAMBEAU, that grows with a branching stem and has a longer blooming period.

BUNCHII. A ruffled and crested form of Feastii.

MRS. TOWNSEND. A very dark leaved sort in this group with a few points on foliage, blooms the largest of any, pink with chocolate cast.

MANICATA. Light green foliage, almost round with collars of red hairs on stems; blooms rose; very dainty.

MANICATA. AUREA. Similar to last but with yellow and white blotches on foliage.

★MANICATA AUREA CRISTATA. Similar to last but with edges of leaves crested and ruffled. \$2.00.

SANGUINEA. A creeping or climbing sort with dark olive leathery foliage quite red under and stems; blooms white. \$1.00.

NELUMBIFOLIA or MACROPHYLLA. Large peltate leaves from a short rhizome; blooms small, white to pink. \$1.00.

TEMPLINI. A thick stemmed branching sort with large wavy leaves blotched with white, yellow and red; blooms pink in clusters; very early, might be called winter bloomer; makes very handsome large specimens.

JESSIE (Phyllomaniaca). Similar to above but with plain leaves with ruddy overcast; also called Ne Plus Ultra.

ULMAFOLIA. Fleshy stemmed with rough, thick elm-like leaves; blooms small white in clusters.

BRAZILIENSIS. Often called ECUADORENSIS in the Eastern States. A low growing spreading type with round green leaves of papillary texture, rather a difficult subject. 50c.



## SCHARFFIANA GROUP

(35c, 50c and up, unless otherwise mentioned)

SCHARFFIANA. A sturdy grower with large, hairy, thick, round leaves, ivy green above, indian red under; blooms white, borne on long stems dividing like a pair of horns. The new growth emerges from a peculiar hood-like sheath.

UNDEMILLE. Seedling of Scharffiana. Leaf rather sickle shaped with waved and ruffled edges, dark ivy green, under and stems Bordeaux; bloom in close clusters, petals white tinted, stamens orange, seed-pods spinel pink. Medium habit, quite individual. \$1.00.

LOMA ALTA. Scharffiana seedling. More pointed though same rounded leaf as parent, not so hairy, dark cress green, under maroon purple; bloom similar but smaller and held more upright.

HAAGEANA. Suggestive of Scharffiana, more upright bushy grower and hardier, leaves more pointed, flowers white tinted pink, pendent in large clusters; like purses in bud; winter bloomer.

ALPHONSE. Large leaf of dark cress green covered with short white hairs, veins deeply indented, under grey green with ribs and veins corinthian purple; bloom similar to Haageana but held more upright.

DRURYII. Haageana type; smooth leaf of dull ivy green, under maroon purple; blooms white in clusters; good habit. 50 cents.

MORGANA. In Haageana group; leaf larger and rounder hairy cress green under corinthian purple; bloom large white tinted, carried upright. \$1.00.

HOUGHTONI. Similar to Haageana but foliage more definitely pointed and habit more bushy. One of the best for pots.

DWARF HOUGHTONI. Like Houghtoni but very dwarf in habit. Leaf very variable in shape generally narrow; bloom on shorter stems and smaller in clusters, good for pots or hanging baskets. 50 cents.

DUCHARTREI. Larger foliage of lighter green and under red color confined to veins. Blooms very large on long stems.

PINK DUCHARTREI. Differing from Duchartrei by blooms carried more erect and decidedly deeper in colors, clusters immense. \$1.00.

GRANTS DUCHARTREI. Similar to Duchartrei but with smaller more pointed darker green leaf, under jade green with ribs and veins purple; blooms in large white tinted clusters, very floriferous.

THURSTONI. Similar in habit but foliage more round and very smooth shiny and darker, blooms pink, borne erect.

★ Means no sales stock.



Viaude (Page 20)



Wallow (Page 10)

BRAEMAR. Large smooth round leaves with abrupt sharp point, dark cress green, under dahlia carmine; bloom white on long pendent stems, panicles exceeding two feet. Its spreading habit makes it marvelous in a large hanging basket. \$2.00.

DOROTHY GRANT. A giant in its class, rather loose in habit. Leaves very large and round dark and so shiny as to appear varnished. Blooms white in upright clusters. A good thing. 50 cents.

VIAUDE. Somewhat stalky in growth with narrow long dark dull green foliage; bloom on long stems white; the best in its class.

METALLICA. An upright grower with handsome dark veined shiny foliage, quite large blooms, light pink in clusters. There are many seedlings of this with slight variations.

NELLY BLY. Bushy in habit, foliage short and broad fluted and of a distinct grey green, blooms tinted pink.

CYPRAEA. Somewhat similar but with rounder foliage with one distinct point, also creped and lighter green; quite generally called Cuphea.

PRUNIFOLIA. A Rosecroft seedling of Viaude with large hairy leaves of a deep plum under; blooms white in huge pendent clusters. \$1.00.

There is also a pink blooming Prunifolia.

NEELEY GADDIS. Very similar to Prunifolio but having a peculiar rudimentary leaf right up with the bloom panicle, blooms crepy white very charming. 50c.

FRUTICOSA. Under this generic title is a large and various group with leathery foliage ranging from just green to almost black upper and brilliant red under, blooms white and tinted white. Rosecroft expects to name some of these.

FRUTESCANS. Low growing spreading habit, leaves leathery rather cupped and wavy showing color of under, forest green, under neutral red; terminal flower clusters held very stiffly, individual blooms white with under and edges and all of stems neutral red. \$1.00.

CHIALA. Like the Fruticosa group but leaves narrower and more pointed. Good branching habit. 50 cents. There are both white and tinted blooming varieties.



## CLIMBING OR SCANDENT DIVISION

ALBA SCANDENS. A clinging ivy-like variety with light green foliage and white flowers; will cling like ivy to post or wall. 50 cents.

GLAUCOPHYLLA SCANDENS. A scandent variety with pointed green leaves, blooms pink shaded, very similar to those of *Quisqualis Indica*; wonderful basket plant; now very scarce. \$1.00.

MARJORIE DAW. A seeding of Mrs. Shepherd of Ventura, a much branched grower needing support; good for pillars or trellises, foliage green and handsome, blooms in large pendent clusters of rosy red. 50 cents and up.



## ODD AND RARE KINDS

DIADEMA. An upright grower with palmate serrated foliage heavily silver spotted—an old variety but rather difficult to grow. 50 cents.

DIADEMA ERECTA. More like *Palmata* than *Diadema* but with foliage even more cut and white spotted rather than striped. \$1.00.

DIADEMA SEEDLINGS. We have a number of these raised at ROSECROFT from seed sent from Hawaii, probably a cross with *Coralline Lucerne*, having leaves reminiscent thereof but indented and varying in shades of green; bloom in lavender pink shades. Tremendous growers sending up many stiff canes. 50 cents.

SUPERBA-AZELLA. Seedling of *Diadema* introduced by Mrs. Eva Gray. Leaf palmate, green with silver markings; bloom large rose pink; medium grower making several canes. \$1.00.

★SUPERBA-KENZII. Another of Mrs. Gray's *Diadema* seedlings with white blooms. \$1.00.

★FAUREANA (PALMATA). Large palmate foliage striped with silver, cane-like growth; very striking. \$1.00.

PALMIFOLIA. Large lobed green leaves on a fleshy stem, blooms white, in clusters. \$1.00.

LINDLEYANA. Similar to *Palmifolia* but leaves thinner in texture and carried flatter, all growth more refined. \$1.00.

★PELTATA. Low grower with peltate leaves, leaves and stems covered with a white fuzz, blooms white in clusters, quite unique. \$1.00.

★LUXURIANS. This has also been named SESSILIFOLIA but Luxurians is its name both at Kew and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. An upright grower almost a climber with huge palmate leaves carried like an umbrella, each section narrow and thin and at center of leaf a quite small ruffle of auxiliary leaves, blooms small white, in clusters. \$2.00.

MRS. FRED SCRIPPS. Apparently a seedling of Luxurians and Scharffiana having a small auxiliary leaf at junction of stem, leaf shape very variable from maple to a duplex split through the center, reaching a length of 18 inches by a foot, hairy, mottled grass green, under dahlia carmine; bloom upright panicles of small white flowers, petals narrow and twisted with irregular star effect. Quite individual but probably not established in habit. \$2.50.

★DAWN. A seedling of Abel Carriere with the same grey foliage but narrow pointed and small; would be a charming dwarf if not so delicate. \$1.00.

★CATHAYANA. A Chinese species like an upright Rex. Leaf pointed very velvety, center and border dark ivy green with narrow stipuled zone of glaucous green, under garnet brown, stems covered with pinky hairs. Not hardy.

★GOGOENSIS. A low grower springing from a rhizome with peltate olive green mottled foliage. Most distinctive, divided by veins just like a spider web.

CALLA LILY. This should be VERNON VARIEGATA as it is definitely a Vernon. Foliage very handsomely white variegated, the new growth coming out pure white like a miniature Calla. Must not be over-watered. \$1.00.

DOMINICAN Species. This was grown from seed gathered by the Government in Dominica. Fluted leaf, light cress green; bloom small, white in clusters; sturdy habit of growth, suggestive of Odorata Alba. 35 cents.



★ Means no sales stock.



Gigantea Rosea (Page 12)



Scandens (Page 21)

## REX BEGONIAS

(35c and up)

Also called Painted-leaf from their vari-colored foliage. Ridgway's color chart used in description.

### Large-leaved Typical Kinds

**PRESIDENT CARNOT.** Round leaf, dark greenish olive with raised blotches of silver, very contrasty; an old favorite. \$1.00.

**EMERALD GIANT.** Large typical leaf, dusky olive green with pea green zone.

**LESOUDSII.** Very large maple form of leaf, dusky olive green irregularly zoned and spotted with pea green. One of the hardiest.

**LORD PALMERSTON.** Typical leaf, olivaceous black with large green zone and dark olive border stipuled with sage green.

**EDOUARD ERDODY.** Round leaf of gnaphalium green with small palmate center of olivaceous black small ivy green markings around edge.

**MRS. JOHN B. (?)**. Very large leaf of gnaphalium green with small olive palmate center, an irregular border of dark cress green with roundish spots of green with a red hair in the center of each.

**MAGNIFICA** or **KING OF THE REX**. An immense leaf of olivaceous black with indistinct varying zone made by an overcasting of gnaphalium green.

**RAJAH.** Rather long shaped leaf with lustrous black center overcast with purple, zone gnaphalium green overcast with Daphne pink shading from center out, pink spots spilling into center and green spots into a border of dark dull yellow green edged with purplish black. \$1.00.

**CHILD'S NEW SPOTTED.** Typical leaves a dark slate olive heavily spotted with small light spots.

**SILVER CLOUD.** Grey green field palmate center and veined edge dull greenish black, stems and under, burnt lake.

**PEARL DE PARIS.** Large round creped leaf of gnaphalium green, lake under following veins.

**K. O. SESSIONS** (Rosecroft). Maple shaped center, zone quite regular greenish glaucous, border forest green, leaf long and pointed on strong tall stems; exceptional grower. \$1.00.

SEA NYMPH (Rosecroft). Large round leaf of brownish black, zone of forest green with silver spots, maroon under following center and edge. \$1.00.

POINCARE (Rosecroft). Ground color gnaphalium green, long fingered center markings, blackish green gray, irregular border leaf green darkening to edge, very striking and tremendous doer. \$1.00.



### **REX—Medium Size Leaves**

MODESTY. Irregular center olivaceous black, zone of court grey flushed with Daphne pink, border greyish olive shading to olivaceous black, spotted with Daphne pink.

MRS. FREVERT (Rosecroft). Maple leaf center and border dark olive irregular zone light elm green, compact grower.

LOUISE CLOSSON. Center and border dusky brown, irregular zone in raised blotches of Daphne red.

LUCY CLOSSON. Similar to Louise but hardier grower, leaves smaller and smoother and showing a green tinge in the darker shades.

EMERAUD. Smooth leaf carrying two or three points, center olivaceous black zone forest green edge fuscous; one of the best in the dark class.

QUEEN OF HANOVER. Roundish leaf, very rough center, olivaceous black zone, pea green edge, dark ivy green, whole leaf and stem covered with corinthian pink hairs.

MOONBEAM (Rosecroft). Typical pointed leaf of gnaphalium green with small irregular indentations on edge and center of deep slate olive, strong silvery sheen the lightest of all the Rexes we know. \$1.00.

EMPEROR. Leaf papillary and hairy, pea green lighter hairs giving a bluish grey effect, center and edge flushed with deep purplish vinaceous.

KING EDWARD. Pointed hairy leaf of brownish purple with zone of light spots tinted purple, variable zone often shows green. 50 cents.

BLACK KNIGHT (MIDNIGHT). Broad leaf though pointed of purple black, zone in blotches and spots very light grey green tinted purple. \$1.00.

HER MAJESTY. Narrow rather wavy leaf, brownish black center and border, zone light green flushed with pink purple. Both colors and texture soft. \$1.00.

MARIE LOUISE. Center and edge brownish black running into spots and blotches of pink purple, zone bright green heavily spotted with light grey green. 50 cents.

A. D. DAVIS (Rosecroft). Grey green with palmate center and narrow even border of greenish black. 50 cents.

MRS. E. B. CLIFT. Wavy maple leaf dark green palmate fingers branching and running to edge in grass green, blotches of grey. Often flushed with purple.

MIKADO. Very light silvery green, palmate center purple black, edge of center and border flushed pink purple. In old leaves and in strong light all of leaf is often flushed. \$1.00.

FIREFLUSH. Medium broad leaf of green with center and edge crimson, the whole covered with crimson hairs which makes the pushing leaves a brilliant plush. An old variety of German origin the right name of which is Furst Otto von Rothschild, or something like that. \$1.00.

DREW (Rosecroft). Small center and edge light grass green, zone grey green so formed as to give a perfect illusion of one leaf placed over another.

CHRETIEN. Soft and shiny leaf, center blackish brown, zone Indian lake, border blackish brown, color quite variable.

INIMITABLE. Upright pointed leaf of sheeny tea green covered with coarse hairs of vinaceous purple, edge vinaceous purple with narrow indentations of hellebore green. Alphonso is so similar as not to warrant a separate description.

CRIMSON GLOW. Leaf finely stipuled with pea green on a brighter green, suffused center and border and on old leaves all over, with Dahlia purple strong metallic sheen. \$1.00.

MOUNTAIN HAZE (?). Very papillary leaf like a very close stipuling pea green, shading darker at center and edge, the whole suffused with purple. \$2.00.

SILVER QUEEN. Ground color gnaphalium green, palmate center and edges olive brown, grown in strong light a magenta overcast appears.



## REX—Small Leaves

★IMPERIALIS SMARAGDINA. Plush-like round leaf of cedar green. A delicate small plant requiring greenhouse care. \$1.00.



Gilsoni (Page 16)



Scharffiana (Page 17)

★SMARAGDINA MACULATA (Otto Foster). Similar to Smaragdina in habit but with heavy blotches of darker green on leaves. \$1.00.

ILLUSTRATA. Small compact grower leaf round with one point, rough and crepy tea green sunken markings along veinings that make a regular network pattern. Excellent for small specimen or border effect. 50 cents.



### **REX—Helix or Spiralled Type**

With the lobe of leaf curled round like a snail's shell.

(\$1.00, \$2.00 and up)

COUNT ADRIEN ERDODY. Beautifully spiralled, small palmate center greenish olive; body of leaf greenish glaucous fretted pattern on edge of emerald green shading to greenish olive.

COUNTESS LOUISE ERDODY. Lobes very twisted and whole leaf in deep folds; body tea green, narrow marking of veining in forest green, edge flushed purple, the best known of all the Helix.

IMPROVED ERDODY. Leaf ruffled and spiralled two or three deep folds, palmate center and border olivaceous black, zone pea green.

BRONZE KING. Leaf extremely ruffled and folded with spiralled lobes, center and narrow edge olive brown, main field oil green with indistinct lighter spots.

CAPT. NEMO (a name given by Rosecroft lacking any other). Leaf ruffled and spiralled with one or more deep folds, small center dull greenish black, main field pea green, well defined border of varleys green edged with dark olive.

BROOKE (another Rosecroft unauthorized title). Large leaf with deep folds, edge ruffled and lobes spiralled, small center and irregular indented border of olivaceous black, main field gnaphalium green. Very smooth texture.

PRINCESS OF HANOVER. Both lobes spiralled, whole leaf very papillary, center olivaceous black, zone pea green, border dark ivy green.



★ Means no sales stock.

## REX—Discolor or Branching

(50c and up)

VAN-EX. A Roy Berry cross, Rex and Evansiana; leaf medium, pointed and serrated, center very dark green, zone silver spotted and broken, border hellebore green, under grey green with center and veins dark vinaceous purple. Makes wonderful specimens, much branched like bushes. \$1.00.

ABEL CARRIERE (ARGENTEA ERECTA). Grows with straggling stems needing support or fits in a hanging basket, leaves small, very palmate center of dark yellow green, rest of leaf pea green that in strong light is flushed with vinaceous purple.

MRS. MOON. Large palmate center dusky green gray, heavily stipuled with andover green, large indented markings around edge, dark cress green stipuled with andover green. Makes a splendid clump in the ground.

ROBERT GEORGE. Maple leaf palmate center of olivaceous black, field slate olive, indented edge markings dark ivy green, spotted with slate olive; excellent upright grower.

MRS. A. G. SHEPHERD. More ivy than maple leaf, small center of dark olive, indented edge of dark greenish olive, field tea green.

ARDIEN SCHMITT. Also known by numerous aliases, Beauty of Richmond, etc. Many pointed leaf, ground color at center olivaceous black lightening to dark cress green at edges; whole leaf blotched with gnapalium green; very striking.

BERTHA McGREGOR. Most majestic upright grower, leaves large, almost palmate center and edges olivaceous black, large long blotches of tea green and irregular spots running out at ends of points. Unfortunately the stock now obtainable is none too robust, but once had a specimen five feet high, much branched and covered with perfect leaves.

N. B.—The foregoing list is only a selection from the ever increasing number of new named Rexes. At this compiling Rosecroft has many seedlings showing marked variations, but in sympathy with a long-suffering public will refrain from naming any till a marked individuality and worth, has established a right to such distinction.



## TUBEROUS SECTION



**Tuberous Begonia**

Price 20c each, \$2.00 per dozen, \$15.00 per 100, except where otherwise mentioned.

We believe our tubers will be fully up to the high standard of the past. They have been carefully rogued in the growing beds and sorted as dry tubers, and are stored under conditions best calculated to preserve maximum vigor. We specialize in a medium size tuber as experience has shown that in this class is the largest percentage of fine blooms and satisfactory plants.

We can supply in separate colors or mixture:

**DOUBLES.** In Rose, Pink, Scarlet, Crimson, Yellow, Orange and White.

**FRILLED.** In mixture only.

**FIMBRIATA PLENA** (Carnation), in mixture only.

**NARCISSIFLORA** (Daffodil), in mixture only.

**LLOYDII** (Hanging). In separate colors.



## TUBEROUS SPECIES

**PEARCEI.** Very floriferous small sulphur yellow blooms, foliage dark mottled velvety green, excellent for bedding or borders. Native to Ecuador, and chief source of yellow in the tuberous family.

**BOLIVENSIS.** Tall and branching with fuchsia-like scarlet blooms. From this came our Lloydii.

★**FROEBELLI.** Single scarlet bearing its blooms in clusters. Winter bloomer, also from Ecuador.

**EVANSIANA.** The easiest grown of all the tuberous woody branching stems and blooms in showers of light pink. One of the oldest and worthy of more attention.

★**SOCOTRANA.** Peltate leaves with single pink flowers, its root formed of cluster of small grain-like tubers round the main stem. One of the parents of our Winter bloomers Lorraine, Melior, etc.

**MARTIANA.** Popular as the Hollyhock Begonia growth like a miniature hollyhock with mallow pink single blooms. Quite unlike any other tuberous even to the tuber which is round smooth and white. Native of Mexico. 50 cents.



## BEDDING TYPE

These are low growing many flowered sorts used very widely and freely for outdoor bedding; they also make wonderful specimens if given the opportunity.

The named varieties have become so numerous, increasing every year, and they are procurable either as seeds, which come readily, or plants, almost everywhere, that we do not attempt to list them by name, though we always have on hand a representative selection.

**WESTPORT BEAUTY.** A charming low bushy grower with very double pink bloom.

**LEPIDOTA.** A medium growing semperflorens, foliage blotched with yellow, bloom white.

**MRS. MARGARET HAM.** Excellent winter flowering bedder or pot plant; bloom spectrum red, leaf dark green turning darker in strong light, edge fringed and waved; splendid habit of growth.

**BIJOU DE JARDIN.** The smallest of all, double red; delightful for favors in thumb pots.

**SCHMIDTII.** A branching prostrate form with small white tinted blooms and bronzy fluted foliage. Good in baskets.

Rosecroft also grows many plants that flourish under conditions similar to those Begonias enjoy, such as **GLOXINIAS**, **GESNERIA** and **ACHIMENES**, and has a collection of over two hundred named varieties of **FUCHSIAS**.

Ferns in variety.

## BEGONIA CULTURAL DIRECTIONS

Arranged by Alfred D. Robinson

### SOIL

LEAF MOLD is the best foundation for Begonia compost. This should be well rotted, not merely dried leaves, and be used, except for seed, in a rather coarse condition; to half of this add one-quarter sandy loam, one-quarter cow manure, with a sprinkling of balanced commercial fertilizer, such as Nitrophoska, and fine charcoal. Begonias will grow in many kinds of soil but experience has proven this mixture.

We find that in large sections of the country leaf mold is difficult to obtain. A good substitute is turfy loam with the addition of one quarter of coarse sand or gravel using for watering this government formula: TO ONE GALLON OF WATER ADD ONE-HALF OUNCE OF SUPERSATURATED ALUM. This supplies the acidity begonias appreciate and offsets alkalinity.

Do not use any material that has even a suspicion of alkali, nor soil that has been persistently irrigated. Begonias like an acid soil.



### WATER

For Begonias there is no real substitute for RAIN WATER. It is essential to have a soft water, especially for seed. Though authorities are divided, plant growers are fairly well agreed that the use of chlorine in water has been very harmful to plant growth. We think it has, and advise the saving of rainwater where possible so that when our city fathers in a panic over the report of some case of infectious disease in a neighboring state, dump into the water system an extra load of chlorine, the rain water barrel can come to the rescue of the potted plants.



### SEED SOWING AND CARE OF SEEDLINGS

Seed of Tuberous should be planted early in the year, though good results are possible with May sowing. Other sorts at any time, depending on the facilities for care.

We have found leaf mold the best soil for seed. Sift this through a medium fine screen, using the coarser part on the bottom of a shallow seed pan, place the fine material on top of this, thoroughly soak. Spread the seed, mixed with ten times its bulk of fine dry soil, evenly over the surface. Cover the pan with a sheet of glass and keep in the dark at a temperature around 65° F., till the seed sprouts when it must be gradually brought to the light, but never full sunlight.



Haageana (Page 18)



Green Fruticosa (Page 20)

As soon as seedlings have rooted firmly enough not to be disturbed by it, use a fine spray instead of soaking. A spray for applying insecticides is good.

After watering sprinkle a little fine dry soil over surface to cover roots of seedlings.

When large enough to handle prick out in similar soil and water as before.

When crowded, pot or plant out.

Various instruments are recommended for pricking out. We have found nothing better than a small finger-nail file or a gold nib.

If seed is started early in the year it is helpful to take the chill off water used.



## HANDLING TUBERS

These are available in the dry state from mid-December till the end of February. They sprout early in Southern California.

Begonia tubers are more like a round saucer shaped potato than a bulb. The top is the depressed side. To start them, put to half their depth in leaf mold, sand or moss. We prefer the first. Give them a good wetting and keep in shaded location in moderate temperature till they sprout; before they do, keep on dry side.

When well growing, pot in the Begonia compost with crown barely covered. Water thoroughly by setting pot in water till moisture shows on surface and then not again till well established. Start with as small a pot as size of tuber allows, shifting on as required. A large tuber will finally ask for an eight-inch size. Keep in strong light but not direct sunlight. When in full growth water freely. Most tuberous Begonias unfortunately require staking. Do this before it seems necessary. Pinch off the first blooms and keep off seedpods for best development.

When plants show by yellowing foliage and ceasing to bloom that they are ready to mature, water only enough to avoid actual dryness. Store pots away on their side under a bench or shrubbery, or if removed from soil put tubers in leaf mold in flats. They should never be actually dry nor wet, or in danger of frost.

A good fertilizer is Floranid: one teaspoonful to a gallon of water applied every two weeks. Ordinary washing Ammonia, a teaspoonful to a gallon of water is also useful. No fertilizer more often than once in four waterings and never on a dry plant, nor on one not in growing state.



## A FEW PLANTING POINTERS



If plants arrive in a dry condition, soak the roots over night.

When potting up, soak thoroughly, then give no more water till almost dry.

Begonias should not be planted any deeper than up to the crown and they should be on a rise rather than in a hole. The water must drain away from the crown.

Begonias generally want at least half shade and won't stand wind.

The roots of Begonias are many, small and fine and near the surface, and no digging should be done round them. All fertilizing material should be applied on the top of the ground.

Begonias make their new roots above the old, which asks for a periodic building up of the soil.

Almost all Begonias are benefited by being pruned or pinched back. The tallest growers can be made of medium height and bushy by training.

With few exceptions (such as the winter blooming class Lorraine, etc.), Begonias like temperate rather than warm conditions; between 60° and 70° is ideal. They also like a moist atmosphere and when grown indoors this should be remembered.

Begonias in pots should have the pots plunged in the ground or protected in some manner to keep them cool and moist. A larger vessel with moist moss in the space around is good.

Do not use potting soil in dry state.

Aphis are always to be feared. Spray at the first signs of an attack, such as curling leaf or ant activity, with Black Leaf 40. This in combination with Volck is also good for red spider and mealy bug.





Wisteria at Rosecroft

## NOTES :

## NOTES:



Peltata (Page 22)



The Rosecroft Collection in 1900

